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MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS BULLETIN

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Notes.

On public holidays which fall on Monday the Museum opens at 9 A. M. instead of remaining closed until noon. This rule will apply on Memorial Day, May 30, when the Museum will be open from 9 till 5. Admission, 25 cents.

It will not apply on Monday, July 4, when the Museum will remain closed as usual throughout the day.

The number of admissions to the Museum in the month of March, 1904, was 26,240; in April, 23,314. Last year the numbers were 29,659 and 25,440. On the eight Sundays that fell this year in these two months, 26,685 visitors entered the Museum, as against 28,618 on nine Sundays in 1903. The total number of visitors from January 1 to April 30 was 90,158 in 1904 and 98,995 in 1903.

Mr. Almy M. Carter (A. B. Harvard, 1898; A. M., 1899) has been appointed Librarian of the Museum. For three years after his graduation Mr. Carter was instructor in Latin at Robert College, in Constantinople, and now comes to the Museum from the Library of Princeton College, where he has been engaged for the past year in the study of library methods.

The Paige scholarship for the coming year has been awarded by the Trustees to Leslie Prince Thompson. Mr. Thompson has been a pupil of the school since 1901 and has won special mention in several competitions.

The Museum has secured the services of Mr. Kakasu Okakura, member of the Imperial Archaeological Commission of Japan, for the investigation of its Chinese and Japanese paintings, drawings, and sculptures, with a view to the preparation of a scientific catalogue of them and to their care and preservation, in accordance with his expert advice. Mr. Rokaku has been engaged for similar work upon the Japanese lacquers, and more especially for the repairs of which many of them are in need.

The Annual Subscriptions to the Museum, in response to the invitation issued by the Trustees in March, now amount to \$11,775. This is less than the sum received at the same time last year, and it is believed that the annual appeal may have failed to reach all who may wish to subscribe. The friends of the Museum are reminded that a subscription of ten dollars or over entitles the subscriber to a transferable ticket admitting four persons to the Museum any day on which it is open until April 1, 1905. These contributions, maintained with fidelity year after year, are not only an important source of the income of the Museum, but a valued mark of its place in the general esteem.

The Museum Commission in Europe.

The Commission, consisting of the Director of the Museum and Messrs. Sturgis and Wheelwright, architects, which went abroad, accompanied by the President of the Museum, at the beginning of the year, to study European museums with reference to the plans of the new building, returned on the 2d of April, after an absence of exactly three months. Landing

at Genoa, the places visited by various members of the party were Milan, Florence, Rome, Naples, Parma, Bologna, Munich, Vienna, Dresden, Berlin, Hamburg, Hanover, Cassel, Frankfurt, Darmstadt, Zürich, Cologne, Hagen, Amsterdam, Haarlem, the Hague, Antwerp, Brussels, Paris, London, Manchester, Glasgow, and Liverpool. In all, ninety-five museums were inspected; but not each of these was seen by all the members of the party, since experience showed that with the system of observation which had been adopted it was both possible and advisable to divide the work in a number of places, with a considerable economy of time and labor. Thus, for example, two went to Holland and Belgium, while the others visited the provincial towns of Germany between Berlin and the Rhine.

As the result of the journey, a large amount of information has been gathered which it is believed will be of great service in developing the plans of the new Museum. Conditions of light, both favorable and unfavorable, in picture and other galleries, were carefully noted, as also the methods and principles of arrangement adopted for the various classes of objects of which our collections are composed, the colors and materials for backgrounds, the character of exhibition-cases, and all other matters which were thought to have a bearing upon the problems now before our Trustees. No one museum was found which would serve as a model for all the conditions which have to be met by the complex nature of our collections, nor was this expected; but the aggregate of suggestions derived—some from one place, some from another—was large and important, and even the negative testimony, or that which showed what was to be avoided, was of great value. Aside from the inspection of the museums themselves, much was learned from the conversations with the officials in charge of them, who were invariably courteous in placing their time and knowledge at the disposal of the Commission. Their criticisms of their own and other galleries, their suggestions as to the respects in which these might have been improved, and their advice in regard to mistakes which were to be avoided in a new building, were of the utmost assistance. Much was learned from them also about details of museum administration, as well as construction and arrangement, so that it is to be hoped that the Museum will profit by this expedition in other matters besides those which have reference to its building plans.

Three New Paintings.

Since the publication of the last number of the Bulletin the Museum has acquired three important paintings. One of these is Il Greco's portrait of Fray Feliz Hortensio Palavicino, the monk, which is regarded by Stirling and other authorities as one of his masterpieces. Il Greco ("the Greek"), whose real name was Domenico Theotocopoulos, was born about 1548, and had his artistic training in Venice, under Titian and Tintoretto. Before he was thirty years of age, however, he transferred his activity to Spain, and lived there until his death, in 1625. He is therefore more identified with the Spanish school than with that of Venice, and even now his works are rare outside of